

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

HOW TO USE

NORTHEY'S

Compositions for destroying RATS.

In the first Place, All Persons that intend destroying their Rats, with these Compositions, must strictly observe the following Directions :

DIRECTIONS *how to dress a* HOUSE.

TAKE some pieces of tiles about as broad as your hand, let the dirt and grit be rubbed clean off one side ; then take a candle and look in all the dark closets, stair holes, dark lofts, false ceilings, cellars, and every private place where they frequent ; they come most in dark places ; and when you come to a place where they haunt, put about a tea-spoonful of the *Charm* on one of the tiles ; if they run thick, you may put a table-spoonful on a tile in a closet, or other place where they come ; one table-spoonful is sufficient for five or six rats for a night and a day ; let every secret place have some set ; they like to feed separate. Take care that nothing besides the rats get to the compositions ; for some other creatures might, if it stood in their way, make free with it. There is not the least danger of the rats doing any hurt, by eating of the compositions, to victuals, or

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any thing else ; though 'tis as well to keep the victuals away from the rats at the time of dressing, as it will create their appetite the better for the compositions. Observe, the *Charm* is to stand two nights and days ; but if the rats eat it all the first night, you may put a little more on the empty tiles ; but if it is not all eat the second day, you must take what is left upon the tiles off, and, if not wet nor dirty, put it into the same bag again ; then put the destroying composition on the same tiles the *Charm* was laid on, only not one half so much ; a bit as big as a pea or a horse-bean will kill the biggest rat that there is ; nor do they eat much more than that quantity of the destroying composition to kill them. Let the destroying composition stand two nights and days, and no longer at one dressing ; if it does, it loses its virtue, and makes the rats shy if any fresh ones come after ; take what is left clean and dry and put it into the same bag again. Sometimes 'tis necessary to take up a board of a floor to feed them, if there are not places enough elsewhere ; the best way is to dress all the out-buildings that are near at the same time.

DIRECTIONS *how to dress* a BARN
and OUT-BUILDINGS.

TAKE some pieces of tiles, as before directed for the house, and go into the barn, and if there be corn in the barn you must get on the mows, and look round the sides, and you will find their runs ; put your hand down by the side of the boards and make the runs wide and flat, so that the tiles may stand firm, then put the compositions on the tiles the same as directed for the house ; set a tile in every principal run round the mows, and if the rats run thick on the top of the mows you may set a tile or two on the top of the corn. Cats will seldom or ever touch my composition ; yet it is best to keep the cats away, or else they are apt to



keep the rats away from the composition, for the rats know when the cats are watching them. When there are many steel traps set round the barn, they make the rats very shy, and loth to come out of the corn; and cats do the same, as also do many sorts of disagreeable poisons that are often made use of: the best way is to move all the cats, traps, and poison, if there be any set, a week before you dress with my compositions. If it be a thatched barn, you must look to see if they have got into the thatch, if they have, there must be some tiles set under the eaves of the thatch in the inside of the barn; if there be any holes in the boards round the outside of the barn, likely you may find good runs, which ought to be well dressed; if there are not holes enough convenient to set the tiles on the fills, there must be some cut in this manner: take a key-hole saw and cut pieces out of the lowest boards that join the fill, five inches long, and two and a half deep, and about two or three yards asunder round the barn: these holes are very handy to put your hands in to clear the runs for the tiles, which must be set on one side of the hole, to prevent the wet, &c. from getting to the tiles.

When the barns have corn in them, the rats always run on the fills: whole-boarded barns must by all means have these holes cut, for where the bottom of a barn lies moist or wet, rats very seldom shew themselves on the outside.

If rats come in the stables you may set a tile or two in any private place, such as under or behind the corn hutch, or under the boards of a chaff-bin. When rats harbour under hog-sties, calves-pens, &c. and if not good places to set the tiles in, you must endeavour to take up a board to put the tiles in, then lay it down again, so that nothing can get to the compositions besides the rats; be very careful that no dirt or wet gets to the compositions. Let no person dress your premises but what you can trust to do you justice.

DIRECTIONS *how to dress* a CORN-STACK.

RATS in corn-stacks are very difficult to destroy, without you take a little pains to follow my directions: when there are rats in a stack they generally make great havock and destruction in the corn; they make very great paths under the eaves of the thatch, and many holes on the top of the thatch; some of them look very small to the eye, but open them with your hand and you will find the paths caked with their dung very thick, and almost big enough for a cat to run in; these runs must be well dressed: in the first place, when you go to dress a stack, take a ladder and look well under the eaves, and if there be good paths make them flat and firm where you intend to set the tiles, and set a tile in every principal run round the stack, and a tile in every plain path in the thatch: put the compositions on the tiles the same as directed for the house.

DIRECTIONS *how to dress* POND-BANKS,
and BANKS round Farm-Yards, &c.

IN the summer rats frequent in banks, and breed very fast under roots of trees, and in the loose straw that lies round the farm-yards; and about Michaelmas will follow the corn into the barn as natural as pigs to the trough. To destroy rats in banks, you must look well for their principal runs between the roots of trees, and likewise in the ditch-sides of hedges, yards, or fields: put the compositions on the tiles the same as directed for the house; set a tile in every plain, fresh, and good run; lay some bushes or pieces of wood to hide the tiles from the poultry, &c. and the same care must be taken if you put any in the loose straw, &c.

DIRECTIONS *how to dress a* WATER-MILL.

WHEN rats harbour in a mill you must examine the cog-pets, and other places under the floors of the mill, as they are generally wet and private; there you may find their runs, which ought to be well dressed, and likewise every private place where they come. Millers generally fat a great many hogs, and these, rats most commonly haunt very much, but you must be very careful to put the tiles so that the hogs cannot get their heads to the compositions; put the compositions on the tiles the same as directed for the house: there is no danger if the rats trample over the hogs victuals, nor yet in any places where they run. Mills generally have more rats in the summer than in the winter; the reason for this is, the barns are most of them empty round the country, and a little before harvest the farmers move the straw and litter out of their yards, and then the rats will some times travel in great droves, from house to house, till they find plenty of provision and shelter; some times they take their quarters in a farm-house, if there be corn in the barn, or a corn-stack in the yard, and very often will travel by the river sides till they come to a mill, and then are very troublesome in gnawing the sacks, as well as damaging the corn, buildings, &c.

DIRECTIONS *how to dress a* SHIP.

RATS on board ships are very mischievous, and dangerous both to the ship and rigging. I have known rats get in between the linings of a ship and gnaw holes so that the ballast has got in, and the motion of the water that is in the ship has washed the gravel and stones to the pumps and choked them, so that the pumps have been obliged to be taken up, and the wells cleaned out; they will sometimes gnaw the sails, rigging, and water-casks, when they lie stowed below; they also are

very troublesome in corn-vessels and English traders, as they carry shop goods to the different parts of the kingdom, and very frequently find great damage done to the freight by the rats. Ships that lie along-side the quays or wharfs are liable to have plenty of rats. When you are troubled with rats in a ship, look well in the lockers, and the stowage in the hold, and any private places where they run; if in a man of war, you must look for their runs in the dark rooms, and places at the bottom of the hold, as they live mostly with the cattle below, and upon the bits that drop below from the men: set the compositions in the same manner as directed for the house—as there are no tiles on board a ship, flat pieces of board will do.

DIRECTIONS *how to destroy* MICE *with*
my COMPOSITIONS.

MICE are vermin that breed very often, and have many young at a litter; I believe a doe mouse will breed near a hundred in a year. When there are rats and mice both in a house, the best way is to destroy the rats first, and, in a week or a fortnight after, where you find the mice run, put a very little of the destroying medicine on some pieces of tiles, the same as directed for the rats, only not a sixth part; you must not put any of the charm for the mice, for it is too strong for them: the use of the charm is, to stupify the rats, and is so strong, that it puts the rats out of their natural senses, and makes them light-headed; if rats be in their common senses they will seldom take any thing that will destroy them. I have often seen the mice die by eating some of the charm; therefore, it is best to set the destroying medicine, without giving the mice any of the charm; the notion of many persons is, that when there are many rats in a barn or corn-stack, that the mice will not harbour in the corn, &c. but I know to the

contrary; for instance, after I have dressed a barn or stack for the rats, I have at the getting in of the stack seen one or two hundred rats lie dead; and double as many mice lie dead. I do not say the mice like to keep in the runs among the rats, but they have little runs by themselves, where the rats cannot get at them. When there are mice in a stack, you must set the tiles in the biggest and best runs round the stack, and if there be any old rat holes in the thatch, you may set some tiles in them: one tea-spoonful will destroy about fifty mice. If there be mice in a barn, set some tiles on the beams, and under the eaves of the thatch or tiles.—Please to put the compositions down easy with the spoon when you put them on the tiles for the rats or mice, as it prevents them from falling off.

O B S E R V A T I O N.

I Have found out, by breeding and keeping rats tame in cages, they are a vermin that increase surprisingly fast: a rat will breed fifty or sixty young in the year: A female rat will go to copulation at two months old, and go only five weeks with young; they will have ten or twelve young rats at a litter; in the summer it is common for a rat to have fourteen or sixteen at a time; nay, I have taken eighteen out of a rat's belly at once. The damage rats do to corn, &c. is very great: I once let one of my tame rats have its full play upon some wheat sheaves for a whole month; I then had the same number, and as equal in size as possible, threshed out, which produced eleven quarts of clean wheat. Rats are creatures that travel in great droves: I have known a house to be without rats a whole winter, and in one night there have been so many come as to run about like rabbits in a warren; the next day I have examined the ditches and banks in the fields, and have found their tracks like sheep paths. 'Tis to be observed, that rats

destroyed by any kind of compositions, shew themselves but very little after they have taken their baits; for every creeping creature on earth has a sort of bed or nest, and as soon as they find themselves disabled, they naturally endeavour to get to it if they can: now these compositions sling the rats into a kind of extacy, and sleep them to death. The best way for persons to satisfy themselves of the efficacy and number of rats these compositions will destroy, is, to dress a corn-stack that has a great number of rats in it, a little before it is removed; this I have done, and found five dead ones to one live one. You may lay my compositions in the day-time, for you cannot find their runs in the dark.—Please to dress all buildings, corn, &c. in one day, as before directed. If you examine your premises well, and dress them accordingly, once in two or three months, there is no fear but you may keep them under; which is a great pleasure for me to hear, as I mean to do good to the country, and this thousands do find from their faithful humble servant,

Thos. Northey

*Only Proprietor and Inventor of these Compositions,
at ~~Colchester~~ in Essex.*

N. B. None are genuine but what has this book of directions, with my hand writing sealed up in the packet.

☞ Allowance made to captains of ships, if they chuse to take a great quantity abroad to sell.—No letters are taken in but what are post-paid to me at ~~Colchester~~.



